

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3 through 21 continue to be in the case.

New claims 22 and 23 are being introduced.

New claim 22 is substantially based on the language of claim 17.

New claim 23 is substantially based on the language of claim 21.

New claim 24 is substantially based on the language of claims 1 and 6.

New claim 25 is substantially based on the language of claim 17.

New claim 26 is substantially based on the language of claims 3 and 6.

New claim 27 is substantially based on the language of claim 17.

The Office Action of March 15, 2004 furnishes detailed arguments to support the rejections expressed there. A number of arguments are based on two or more references. Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion within the corners of the applied references that there combination would result in anything useful.

In addition a number of times the Office Action of March 11, 2004 alleges that certain features of applicants claims are obvious without reciting any art to support such obviousness. Applicants urge that were the six applied

references Eisler, Stearns, Curry, Fife, Cooper, and Holt do agree not to furnish a feature of applicant's claims, such feature of applicant's claims will be clearly unobvious over these references despite any intelligent plausibility construction delivered in the Office Action of March 11, 2004 that such feature is obvious *per se*.

For example, claim 10 requires the method step "performing a screwing motion of the dental instrument together with the protective covering over the flame cone". This step is admittedly not present in the references Fife and Holt applied to claim 10. The introduction of such step by the present applicant is clearly novel and unobvious, in particular where the references applied are completely silent regarding to such a step.

For example, claim 11 specifies the screwing motion of the dental instrument together with its cover. There is no basis in the facts to hold such motion to be obvious without reciting any document supporting a teaching of the step required according to applicant's claim 11.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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